

HAWK Pedestrian Signals

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Bureau of Engineering and Construction

Traffic and Safety Engineering

Definitions and Features

The HAWK (or High-Intensity Activated CrossWalk) pedestrian signal is a type of traffic control device designed to allow pedestrians to safely cross streets with high volumes of traffic. In an effort to increase pedestrian safety, the Connecticut Department of Transportation has begun an initiative to install HAWK signals at select locations throughout the state.

The HAWK signal is composed of a circular yellow signal centered under two horizontally-aligned circular red signals.

HAWK signals only operate when a pedestrian activates a push button at the pedestrian crossing. The signal activates stop control requiring vehicles to stop when a pedestrian crosses and then allows vehicles to move once pedestrians have finished crossing. Pedestrian signals will notify pedestrians when it is safe to cross the roadway.

The HAWK signal is one of the Federal Highway Administration's Proven Safety Countermeasures, providing the following safety benefits:

- 69% reduction of pedestrian crashes
- 29% reduction of total roadway crashes

Isolated crossings with marked crosswalks will be the only locations eligible for HAWK signal installations.



HAWK Signal in Billings, MT (Photo courtesy of Billings Gazette)

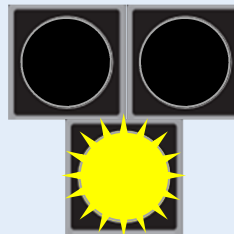
How HAWK Signals Work

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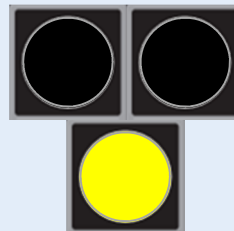
The following describes the indications on a typical HAWK pedestrian signal:



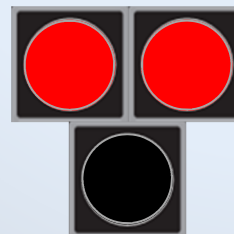
DARK—HAWK signal has not been activated. Vehicles proceed through pedestrian crossing.



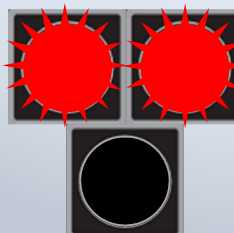
FLASHING YELLOW—Pedestrian has activated the HAWK signal.



SOLID YELLOW—Pedestrian signal is about to change. Motorists are notified their movement is being terminated and a red signal will be displayed.



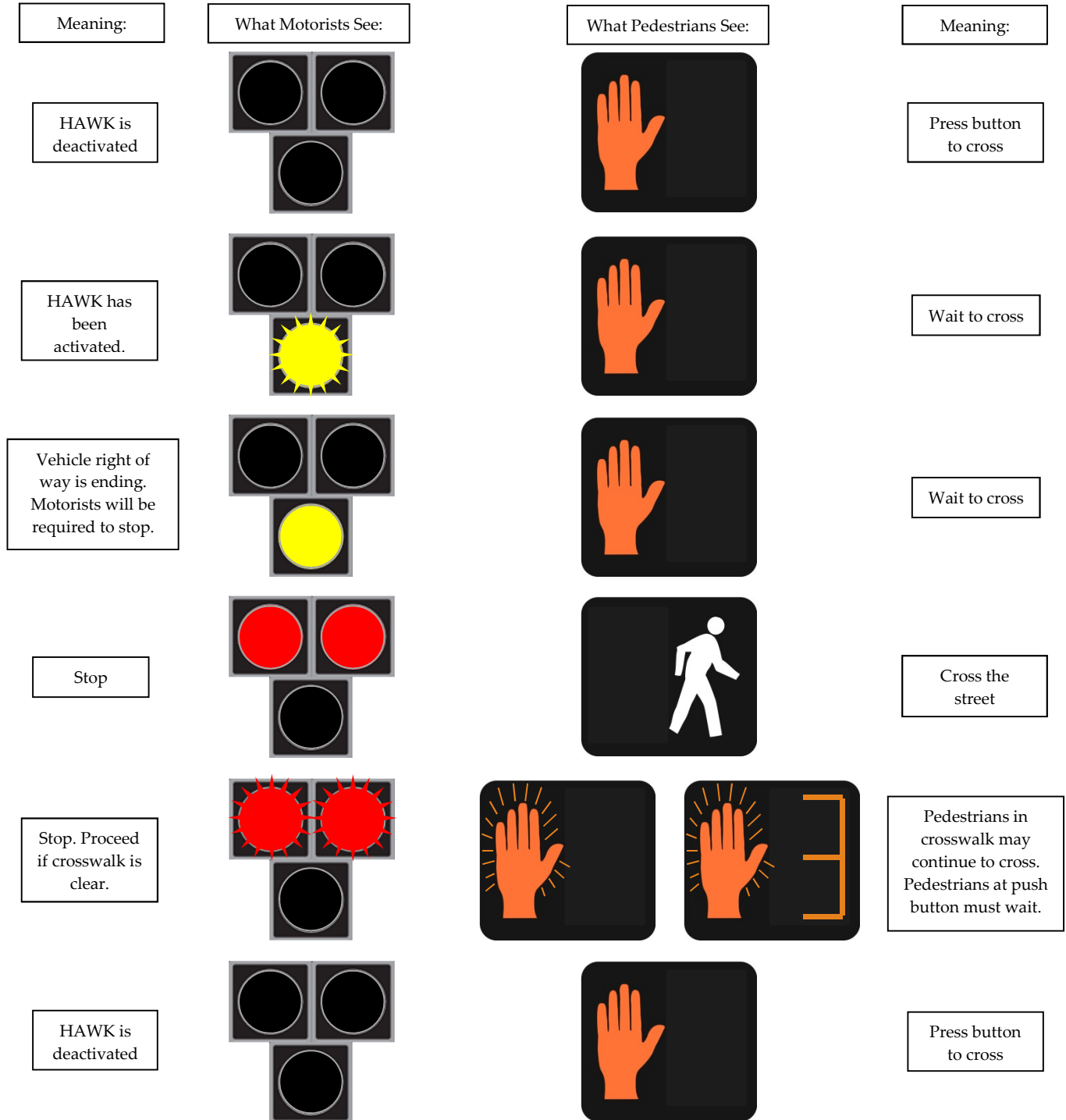
SOLID RED—Pedestrian is in the crosswalk. Motorists must stop.



FLASHING RED—The HAWK signal is about to deactivate. Drivers must stop but may proceed when pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk.

HAWK Pedestrian Signal Operation

The following demonstrates what motorists and pedestrians will experience when approaching a crossing with a HAWK pedestrian signal¹:



Further Information on HAWK Pedestrian Signals

Additional information about HAWK pedestrian signals can be found at

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa_sa_12_012.cfm² or contact Joseph Ouellette at (860) 594-2721.

References:

1. "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Chapter 4F. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons". Federal Highway Administration. 2009.
2. "Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon". Federal Highway Administration website.